

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- A scanning device periodically changes the direction of the transmission of an electromagnetic wave from an electromagnetic wave generating device. A first driving device operates for
- 5 repetitively driving the electromagnetic wave generating device a plurality of times per one period of the change of the direction by the scanning device, and thereby for repetitively transmitting a distance measurement electromagnetic wave. A second driving device operates for, before the first driving device drives the
- 10 electromagnetic wave generating device, driving the electromagnetic wave generating device and thereby transmitting a judgment electromagnetic wave having an energy smaller than that of the distance measurement electromagnetic wave. An obstacle judging device permits the first driving device to drive the
- 15 electromagnetic wave generating device next in cases where a detected obstacle is absent, and inhibits the first driving device from driving the electromagnetic wave generating device next in cases where a detected obstacle is present.

TECHNICAL FIELD